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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2425

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 TEL AVIV 18500

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CASC, IS
SUBJECT: BLACK HEBREW ARTICLE IN JERUSALEM POST

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN
JERUSALEM POST, ISRAEL'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY NEWSPAPER
ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1980:

QUOTE

BLACK HEBREWS TELL OF CRUELTY, DEATH.

INVESTIGATION BY JOAN BORSTEN.

"WE EXPLAIN OVER AND OVER THAT THE BLACK HEBREWS ARE
ANTI-WHITE, ANTI-SEMITIC, AND ANTI-ZIONIST. THERE ARE
ELEMENTS OF THEIR LIFE STYLE THAT ARE STRANGE AND SICK.
BUT NO ONE LISTENS. NO ONE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT THIS
GROUP IS REALLY LIKE. INSTEAD THEY TALK ABOUT THEIR
QUAINT CLOTHES AND MUSICAL TALENTS."

- A MEMBER OF THE DIMONA CITIZENS COMMITTEE.

NEXT MONTH TOMMY WHITFIELD WILL PUBLISH HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY.
'FROM NIGHT TO SUNLIGHT', WHICH DOCUMENTS HIS NINE YEARS
AS A MEMBER OF THE BLACK HEBREW CULT. A FOUNDER OF THE
ORIGINAL GROUP, WHITFIELD, HIS WIFE HAZEL, AND THEIR
CHILDREN TRAVELLED FROM CHICAGO TO LIBERIA TO CHICAGO TO
ISRAEL LOOKING FOR A REFUGE FROM LIFE IN AMERICA'S URBAN
GHETTOS, AND A NEW IDENTITY. DISENCHANTED FROM THE TIME
THAT BEN-AHI CARTER ANNOUNCED HE WAS NOT ONLY THE BLACK
HEBREWS' LEADER, BUT ALSO MESSIAH, THEY DEFECTED IN 1977
WHEN ARIAGGEDON DID NOT MATERIALIZE AS PROMISED.

WHITFIELD AND HIS WIFE WRITE OF THEIR DISILLUSIONMENT WITH
THE GROUP, WHOSE ORIGINAL IDEOLOGY THEY STILL FIND
APPEALING, AND THEIR BELIEF THAT CARTER AND THE CULT'S
OTHER LEADERS ARE GUILTY OF MANIPULATING AND VICTIMIZING
INNOCENT PEOPLE.

THEY ALSO TELL SOME HAIR-RAISING TALES OF THEIR LIFE WITH
THE CULT: DEATH FROM MALNUTRITION OF TWO OF THEIR NINE
CHILDREN, TRAVELLING IN AND OUT OF ISRAEL ON SOMEONE
ELSE'S PASSPORT, BODIES CARRIED OUT OF CULT HEADQUARTERS
LATE AT NIGHT. HAZEL SPEAKS OF UNNATURAL AND CRUEL PUNISH-
MENTS. SHE HERSELF WAS PHYSICALLY SEPARATED FROM HER
HUSBAND AND CHILDREN FOR A YEAR FOR QUESTIONING CARTER'S
'DIKTAT' THAT TOMMY TAKE A SECOND WIFE.

SHE DESCRIBES THE "DIVINE HEALING" (CULT MEDICAL PRACTICES)
WHICH CAUSED HER TO DEVELOP MASTITIS. WHEN HER NINTH CHILD
WAS BORN PREMATURELY, SHE WRITES, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT
SHE DID NOT YET HAVE ENOUGH MILK TO NURSE HIM. TO "SPEED
UP" THE NATURAL PROCESS, DIMONA MIDWIVES FORCIBLY HELD
HER DOWN AND PUT A TWO-YEAR-OLD CHILD TO HER BREAST, A
"TREATMENT" THAT CONTINUED DESPITE SEVERE BLEEDING.

WHEN HER INFANT DIED, CARTER SPENT TWO YEARS TRYING TO
"RAISE HIM FROM THE DEAD." EVENTUALLY THE CHILD WAS BURIED,
WITHOUT CEREMONY, IN A GRAVE HIS PARENTS WERE NEVER ALLOWED
TO VISIT.

THE WHITFIELDS' STORY WILL BE BROADCAST NEXT MONTH IN THE
U.S. BY NBC-TV, WHOSE RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT HAS
JUST COMPLETED AN HOUR-LONG DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THIS
SECRETIVE, INSULAR CULT-GROUP WHO, LIVING IN SEVERAL
NEGEV TOWNS, CONSIDER THEMSELVES THE ONLY TRUE DESCENDANTS
OF THE BIBLICAL HEBREWS.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS THE LOCAL PRESS HAS WONDERED ABOUT THE
RAPIDLY-MUSHROOMING COLONY OF BLACK AMERICAN FUNDAMENTAL-
ISTS. SINCE THE ARRIVAL HERE OF THE FIRST HUNDRED IN
1968-69 - THE GROUP MAY NOW NUMBER AS MANY AS 2,000 - THEY
HAVE LIVED AS A NATION WITHIN A NATION, ANSWERABLE ONLY TO
THEIR CHARISMATIC LEADER.

PUBLICITY GENERATED BY THE JONESTOWN, GUYANA, MASS-
SUICIDES OF 1978 MADE CLEAR THAT, LIKE THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE,
THE BLACK HEBREWS ARE A CULT. BUT JOURNALISTS WERE
CONTINUALLY STYMIED IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO CONFIRM REPORTS,
FIRST WHISPERED TO THE JERUSALEM POST IN 1978, THAT CARTER
CONFISCATES THE MONEY, PROPERTY AND PASSPORTS OF HIS
FOLLOWERS. IT WAS SAID THAT THE BLACK HEBREWS MAINTAIN
DISCIPLINE INTERNALLY BY IMPRISONMENT, CORPORAL
PUNISHMENT, SHAVING OF THE HEAD, AND BANISHMENT.

SINCE DECEMBER, 1978, WHEN "M", WHO MORTALLY FEARED
PUBLICIZING HIS FULL NAME, FIRST EXPLAINED TO 'THE POST'
THE REASONS HE LEFT THE CULT, OTHER FORMER BLACK HEBREWS
HAVE COME FORWARD TO CORROBORATE HIS TESTIMONY. ONE

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SHOCKING AND DETAILED REPORT WAS PUBLISHED IN 'HAOLAM
HAZEH' BY ONE OF THE CULT'S FORMER LEADERS WHO WAS
RECENTLY BANISHED BY CARTER.

HE, LIKE THE WHITFIELDS, HELPED FOUND THE BLACK HEBREWS.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT, AMERICANS AND ISRAELIS WHO OVER THE
YEARS GAVE SHELTER TO BLACK HEBREWS DEFECTING FROM THE
CULT, HAVE BEGUN TO REPORT SOME OF THEIR OBSERVATIONS.

AN AMERICAN COUPLE WHO HAVE TAKEN FOUR FAMILIES INTO THEIR
HOME SINCE 1978, ALL OF WHOM REMAINED WITH THEM FOR MANY
MONTHS, SAY THAT ADULTS AND CHILDREN ALIKE WERE LITERALLY
TERRIFIED OF "WHITE" PEOPLE. THEY HAD BEEN TAUGHT DURING
THEIR YEARS WITH CARTER'S BAND TO HATE NON-BLACKS, WHO
WERE "DEMONS" BENT ON ENSLAVING THEM.

C.L., ONE OF AN ESTIMATED FOUR DOZEN BLACK HEBREWS TO
DEFECT FROM THE CULT IN 1980, ADDS: "IN CHICAGO WE'D HEARD
THAT THIS GROUP HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH COLOUR, BUT WHEN I
GOT TO DIMONA I FOUND THEY WERE TEACHING THE CHILDREN
HATRED. TEACHING THEM THAT THE JEWS ARE GENTILES FROM
EUROPE TRYING TO KICK US OUT OF OUR OWN COUNTRY. THEY WERE
CAPTURING THEIR MINDS, DRILLING THEM, MAKING THEM RECITE
THE BELIEFS. IT WILL ALL COME HOME TO ROOST IN 10 TO 15
YEARS WHEN THOSE CHILDREN ARE ADULTS."

IN A LETTER TO CARTER, FOUND BY DIMONA RESIDENTS OF THE
NIZAHON NEIGHBOURHOOD, A CULT CHILD CAUGHT STEALING FROM
A "WHITE" BEGS FORGIVENESS AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT HIS SIN
WAS NOT STEALING FROM "WHITES", BUT BEING CAUGHT IN THE
ACT.

A REGISTERED NURSE WHO HELPED FAMILIES TO LEAVE DIMONA SAYS
THAT ALL 12 OF THE CHILDREN SHE EXAMINED, WHOM THE PARENTS
CONSIDERED HEALTHY, WERE SUFFERING FROM SWOLLEN STOMACHS,
BOWED LEGS, AND DYSENTERY - THE CLASSIC SYMPTOMS OF
MALNUTRITION. THE NURSE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE CHILDREN'S
POOR HEALTH, AND THEIR PARENTS' LOSS OF TEETH, WERE
DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE CULT'S MACRO-VEGETARIAN DIET WHICH
ALLOWS FOR NO MEAT, FOWL, FISH, EGGS, MILK OR MILK PRODUCTS.
LIKE THE WHITFIELDS, EACH FAMILY TOLD THE NURSE OF HAVING
LOST ONE OR MORE CHILDREN - TEENAGER - AS WELL AS INFANTS -
FROM MALNUTRITION DURING THEIR YEARS WITH THE CULT.

DIMONA RESIDENTS RECALL SEEING CULT CHILDREN IN A PART OF
TOWN FAR FROM THE BLACK HEBREW NEIGHBOURHOOD, FURTIVELY
GOBBLING DOWN FORBIDDEN PROTEIN AND SWEETS - REFINED SUGAR
IS ALSO TABOO.

S., A FORMER CULT MEMBER WHO DEFECTED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO,
COMPLAINED OF FOOD SHORTAGES DUE TO BUDGET DIFFICULTIES.
HE WONDERED ALOUD IF THE DIETARY LAWS WERE DEVELOPED BY
THE LEADERSHIP TO "WEAKEN" THE MENTAL CONDITION OF THE
MEMBERSHIP AND ALLOW CARTER "TO GET AT THEIR MINDS.". HE
SAID THAT EVEN WHEN THE CHILDREN'S DAILY INTAKE WERE
RATIONED, THE LEADERS "WERE EATING WELL."

TO THIS, C.L. ADDS: "CARTER GIVES YOU ONLY TWO, TWO-AND-A-
HALF SHEKELS A DAY TO EAT. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GET PEOPLE
IN AMERICA TO SEND YOU MONEY. CARTER SAYS THE LACK OF FOOD
IS TRAINING FOR THE WORLD FAMINE THAT IS TO COME, JUST AS
LIVING IN CROWDED CONDITIONS IS THE WAY TO LEARN TO GET
ALONG SO YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE WHEN THE WORLD COMES
TO AN END."

A QUALIFIED TEACHER, WHO TESTED THE ACADEMIC LEVEL OF AT
LEAST 10 BLACK HEBREW CHILDREN EDUCATED EXCLUSIVELY IN
CULT SCHOOLS, REPORTS THAT ALL WERE FUNCTIONALLY
ILLITERATE IN BOTH HEBREW AND ENGLISH. SHE FOUND THIS
SURPRISING AS ALL OF THE PARENTS HAD SOME PROFESSIONAL
SKILLS AND COULD READ AND WRITE ON A HIGH-SCHOOL STANDARD.
THE CHILDREN, SAID THE TEACHER, ALSO HAD NO UNDERSTANDING
OF CERTAIN BASIC CONCEPTS. WHEN TOLD TO MAKE A "WISH"
BEFORE BLOWING OUT HER BIRTHDAY CANDLES, ONE GIRL WAS AT
A LOSS TO KNOW WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF HER. WHEN TOLD TO BE
"BRAVE," A TEENAGE BOY HAD TO BE ADVISED THAT THE WORD
MEANT "SOMETHING LIKE NOT BEING AFRAID."

PARENTS EXPLAINED TO THE TEACHER THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE
OFTEN SEPARATED FROM THEM PHYSICALLY AND RAISED BY OTHER
CULT MEMBERS. THEY ATTRIBUTED THEIR CHILDREN'S UNNATURAL
RETICENCE - THE CHILDREN DO NOT YELL, SHOUT, AND TALK
FREELY WHEN PLAYING WITH OTHERS THEIR AGE - TO REGULAR
BEATINGS DELIVERED BY CULT MEMBERS TO TEACH THE VIRTUES
OF SILENCE.

ALL FORMER CULT MEMBERS SPEAK OF RELINQUISHING BANK
ACCOUNTS AND PROPERTY TO THE CULT BEFORE BEING PRESENTED
WITH ROUND-TRIP PLANE TICKETS BY THE CHICAGO HEADQUARTERS

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OF THE BLACK HEBREWS - "A FANCY OFFICE FULL OF SECRETARIES
BUSY TYPING AND ANSWERING TELEPHONES." THEY ALSO SPEAK OF
SURRENDERING THEIR PASSPORTS TO BEN-AMI CARTER UPON ARRIVAL
IN DIMONA. C.L., ONE OF THOSE WHO ASKED FOR HIS PASSPORT
BACK AFTER LEAVING THE GROUP, REPORTS THAT HIS DOCUMENTS
WERE RETURNED. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT LEFT ISRAEL
SINCE ARRIVING HALF A YEAR BEFORE, HIS PASSPORT SHOWED HIM
HAVING EXITED AND RE-ENTERED THE COUNTRY SEVERAL TIMES.
ACCORDING TO IMMIGRATION STAMPS, HE WAS CURRENTLY NOT IN
ISRAEL.

C.L. SAYS THAT HE BECAME INVOLVED WITH THE GROUP WHILE
VISITING ISRAEL ONE SUMMER ON A TOUR ORGANIZED BY HIS
UNIVERSITY.

"AT THE END OF TWO WEEKS, WHILE IN JERUSALEM, I WAS
APPROACHED BY BLACK HEBREWS. THEY SAID THEY WERE FROM
CHICAGO AT THE TIME, WE EXCHANGED ADDRESSES. WHEN I GOT
HOME, I CALLED TO FIND OUT ABOUT THIS GROUP LIVING IN
ISRAEL. I'D REALLY LIKED ISRAEL. IT TOOK ME ABOUT THREE
WEEKS TO MAKE THE CONNECTION. I WENT TO A FEW MEETINGS TO
FIND OUT WHAT THEY WERE ALL ABOUT AND I WAS VERY IMPRESSED.
WHAT THEY TELL YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT
FROM THE REALITY HERE," HE SAID. "ON THE OTHER SIDE, CARTER
IS RARELY MENTIONED. HE WAS JUST THE MAN IN CHARGE. THEN
I GOT HERE, AFTER GIVING THEM MY \$20,000, AND SUDDENLY
HE IS THE MESSIAH. GOD. THEY TELL YOU THAT ACCORDING TO
THE BIBLE, 144,000 PEOPLE WILL BE SAVED ON THE WORLD'S
LAST DAY. THOSE WILL BE THE BLACK HEBREWS LED BY CARTER.
MT. ZION WILL OPEN UP AND THEY WILL GO INSIDE AND COME OUT
WHEN IT IS OVER, CLEANING UP THE MESS, STARTING OVER AGAIN
IN A RIGHTEOUS MANNER WHAT WILL BE KNOWN AS THE KINGDOM
OF GOD. THEY WILL RULE OVER THE FEW PEOPLE LEFT ON EARTH.

"IT BLEW MY MIND. I COULDN'T FALL FOR IT. I COULDN'T
BELIEVE THE MESSIAH WOULD COME ONLY TO BLACK PEOPLE AND
NOT ALSO TO THE CHINESE, RUSSIANS, AND ITALIANS. THE
OTHERS QUICKLY TOLD CARTER THAT I WAS GOING AGAINST HIS
TEACHINGS. THEY STARTED WORKING ON MY WIFE. THAT'S THE
WAY THEY DO THINGS. THEY GET TO THE SISTERS FIRST, AND
ONCE THEY'VE GOT THEM HOOKED, THE SISTERS START WORKING
TO NEUTRALIZE THEIR MEN. THAT'S JUST THE WAY PIMPS WORK
ON THE WEST SIDE OF CHICAGO WHERE CARTER IS FROM, AND IN
THE EAST CHICAGO HEIGHTS AREA WHERE HIS SIDEKICK SHALEAK
BEN YEHUDA AND SOME OF THE OTHERS USED TO LIVE, AN AREA
FULL OF HUSTLERS AND PEOPLE ON AID.

"I DECIDED TO GET OUT AFTER I'D BEEN THERE FOR LESS THAN A
YEAR. THERE WERE TOO MANY WOMEN DYING IN CHILDBIRTH BECAUSE
OF THE BUTCHERS THEY CALL MIDWIVES. THE KIDS DON'T KNOW
MATH, HISTORY, CHEMISTRY. THE GROUP SPEAKS A DIFFERENT KIND
OF HEBREW FROM THE ISRAELIS. SOME OF THEM WERE REALLY SICK
PHYSICALLY. SO I JUST EASED OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

C.L. WOULD NOT SAY HOW HE HAD ENTERED ISRAEL UNDETECTED
BY THE AIRPORT AUTHORITIES, WHO ARE REPORTEDLY ON THE
LOOKOUT FOR NEW RECRUITS TO THE CULT. BUT IT IS BELIEVED

THAT HE MAY HAVE ARRIVED WITH A GROUP OF "TOURING BLACK
AMERICAN POLICEMEN."

THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES.

END QUOTE.

2. EMBASSY COMMENTS FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL. LEWIS

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